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# The Legal Minute

A St. Mary's School of Law Student Publication • Volume Two, Issue One • October 2010

## Yale, St. Mary's, Columbia

By Andrew Fields  
Contributing Writer

What do Yale, Columbia, and St. Mary's Law School have in common? They are one of only a few law schools in the nation that offer Chinese law programs and opportunities to study abroad. Thanks to the leadership of Dean Charles Cantu, and Professors Robert Hu, Vincent Johnson, and Chenglin Liu, St. Mary's kicked off its inaugural trip to Beijing this past summer and had a very successful start.

For four weeks, almost 30 law students from Texas, Mexico, Europe, and China, studied together at BeiHang University School of Law with the St. Mary's program. The Institute on Chinese Law and Business allows St. Mary's students the opportunity to engage the world's second largest economy in classes that are rarely available this side of the globe. Classes are designed to verse students in international business, Chinese law, Chinese legal problems, and the ever-growing intellectual property dilemma that only a country the size of China could create. The courses are taught by American and Chinese professors. Kirsten Ruehman, a 3L from Bastrop, says the class she enjoyed the most was "Intellectual property because it is such a hot topic in the world today and it was taught by pro-

fessors with extensive, first-hand knowledge of the field." Ruehman also commented on Professor Liu's Chinese Law class and said "it was my favorite because I learned how China's unique cultural background and ancient history has affected the legal system it has today."

Outside of the classroom, students had

the opportunity to explore the ancient city of Beijing, work at international law firms in the business district, and travel the country on the weekends. This past summer students traveled to Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and some were fortunate enough to book layovers in Hawaii on their way home. Gavin Uttecht, a 2L from Houston, spent a

long weekend in Hong Kong and described it as "the most beautiful modern city in the world." He said his most vivid memory of the weekend was "being on a ferry at night on a harbor tour and seeing the city lit up over the crystal waters of the harbor." He described the lights [of Hong Kong and Kowloon] at night as "seeming to duel each other from across the harbor."

St. Mary's is envied for its enormously successful Innsbruck program; students rave about the European travel, the diverse food, the pub crawls. With the success of the China program in its inaugural year, it can only be expected to match the reputation of its European counterpart. With so much to offer a student interested in international business or international law, St. Mary's Institute of Chinese Law and Business is a must. It is an opportunity that will enrich a student beyond what most law schools in America can offer, even more than many Ivy law schools offer. It's an opportunity that places St. Mary's students at the forefront of the fastest growing legal market in the world. The exotic Asian cities, the cultural cuisines, and the opportunities of a lifetime are calling...

For information on St. Mary's China program, please follow the link available at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/>, or seek out the students who attended last summer for first-hand accounts.



## St. Mary's Hosts Regional Competition

By Shekinah Hammonds  
Contributing Writer

Founded in 1968, the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) is a national 501(c)(3), non-profit organization created to articulate and promote the professional needs and goals of Black law students. NBLSA is one of the largest student-run organizations in America and has approximately 200 chapters at law schools throughout the country. Having a presence in almost every ABA accredited law school, plus several non-accredited law schools, NBLSA chapters represent over 6,000 Black law students in six regions that encompass 48 states including Hawaii, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

NBLSA is unique in that every event, document, and speech is constructed and implemented by its student members. It is an organization that prides itself on giving law students an opportunity to build useful skills through practical experiences. NBLSA's societal impact is enormous and its members represent many of the nation's future lawyers, judges, politicians and diplomats.

As a completely student-run nonprofit organization, NBLSA and its executive board conduct all fundraising efforts. Accordingly, the organization solicits the support of community groups, private corporations, law firms, and federal agencies to support its programming.

The Rocky Mountain region of NBLSA serves 16 local chapters in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, Utah, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. RMBLSA serves as a resource to our local chapters by aiding them as they implement national initiatives. RMBLSA also holds an annual Job Fair and Academic Retreat, which was held this year on September 3 and 4, 2010 at the South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas.

This year's regional convention will be held at the St. Anthony Wyndham Hotel and Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, February 8-13, 2011. RMBLSA's Regional Convention brings all of the region's chapters together each year for competitions, community service, team building, spiritual enrichment, and a host of networking events that link professionals of diverse interest. The convention will include events such as:

Regional Moot Court Competition where Saint Mary's is preparing a team to compete for the first time in several years.

Regional Mock Trial Competition where the Saint Mary's BLSA local chapter has placed in the finals two consecutive

years in a row. On February 6, 2009, the Saint Mary's BLSA Mock Trial Team won the 2009-2010 Rocky Mountain Region Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition in Colorado and placed second at the National BLSA Mock Trial Competition in Irvine, California just weeks after. On January 16, 2010 the team competed at the RMBLSA Thurgood Marshall National Mock Trial Competition in New Orleans, Louisiana and placed again as regional finalists.

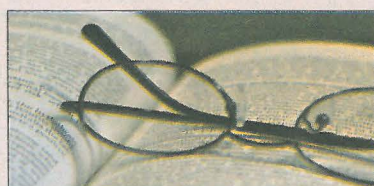
College Student Division activities where undergraduate students seeking to attend law school will have an opportunity to participate in exercises that will assist in preparation for law school.

A Career Fair that will marshal a host of recruiters that will benefit undergraduate students as well as law students and graduates. Various Community Service Events that will provide law students and lawyers the opportunity to link hands in the community. Seminars for students and lawyers from across the region on various topics related to the practice of law.

If you are interested in competing, please contact the Saint Mary's BLSA President, Christian Johnson at [christian@thelibraryreading.com](mailto:christian@thelibraryreading.com). If you are interested in volunteering or participating in this year's events, please contact the RMBLSA Chair, Andre Bennin, at [rockymountain@nblsa.org](mailto:rockymountain@nblsa.org) or Lavonne Burke, RMBLSA Vice Chair at [ViceChair.RMBLSA@gmail.com](mailto:ViceChair.RMBLSA@gmail.com).

## What's INSIDE

Campus News  
Catholic Identity  
Commentary  
Travel



### SCHOLARSHIPS

Do not miss the deadlines for scholarships and writing competitions. Pg. 3



### CATHOLIC IDENTITY

St. Mary's School of Law's annual Red Mass has arrived. Pg. 5



### GUNS ON CAMPUS

Two law students debate the merits of concealed handguns on campus. Pg. 7



### FLYING NUN

A glimpse into the life of St. Mary's globe trotting nun, Sister Grace. Pg. 5



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## LONESTAR CLASSIC

St. Mary's Law School is hosting the 2010 Lone Star Classic® October 14th, 15th, and 16th. The Classic is an annual national invitational mock trial tournament. This year, we are hosting teams from sixteen law schools. The preliminary rounds will be held on Thursday afternoon, Friday morning, and Friday afternoon at the Bexar County Courthouse. The semi-final rounds will be held in the classroom building on Saturday morning, October 16, at 9:00 a.m. The final round will be held on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in the law school's courtroom. If you are interested in assisting in serving as a bailiff or marshal, or helping in any other way, please contact Sina Ellis Griffith or Professor Dave Schlueter.

## BOARD OF ADVOCATES

Attention 2Ls and 3Ls: the Board of Advocates is calling for students to judge the Fall Evening Student portion of the second annual Linda and Dave Schlueter First Year Moot Court Competition. The round will be held the evening of Friday, November 5, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested please contact Ben Zimmerman at benjamin.t.zimmerman@gmail.com or Brian Cromeens at bcromeens@gmail.com.

## FINGERPRINTING

L1 Identity Solutions will conduct the fingerprinting for all first-year law students for the Declaration of Intent for the Board of Law Examiners (BLE). Fingerprinting will take place Wednesday and Thursday, November 10-11, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on both days in LF202. Students must register online in advance of these dates. L1 Identity Solutions will NOT accept walk-ins. The FAST Form is printed with the Declaration of Intent when that form is completed and printed for mailing to the BLE. Students can pay by credit card only when scheduling their appointment or by check or money order on the date of the appointment. Cash is not accepted. Please check your St. Mary's Student Email account for more details on the IL Fingerprinting process.

## VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program needs your help! The VITA Program offers free tax help for low-to-moderate-income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers, trained by professors and students at the Bill Greehey School of Business, will prepare tax returns on Saturdays during the tax season at the Center for Legal and Social Justice. If you are interested, please contact Rachael Bernstein at rbernstein@stmarytx.edu. Training will begin in early January.

## PRO BONO/COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Pro Bono/Community Service Program provides current law students with opportunities to work with licensed attorneys and other professionals committed to serving members of the community with free legal information and services. In addition to helping fill a great need, students gain first hand practical experience while establishing professional ties with the legal community. Students who volunteer and report at least 50 hours of qualified work are eligible for a Pro Bono Achievement Award Certificate during their graduation ceremony. For more information visit the Pro Bono TWEN site or contact the Pro Bono Services Division Research Assistant, Cristina Zambrano, at czambrano@mail.stmarytx.edu.

## ANIMAL RELIEF DONATIONS

St. Mary's University School of Law Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Association (SALDF) is collecting dry and canned dog food, as well as newspapers for a family who rescued a dog off the streets of San Antonio. The Ramirez family took in the abandoned dog, now named Daisy. They are willing to care for and love her. However, three days later Daisy had five beautiful puppies. The Ramirez's are able to physically care for the puppies, but they cannot financially afford them. The puppies are only four weeks old, not old enough to go to a shelter or find homes. Please donate any dry or canned puppy or dog food you can to help raise the puppies until they are 8 weeks old and can be placed in loving, caring homes. A donation box has been placed in the Law Classroom building for your contributions. Thank you.

## MED/MAL MIXER

After reviving the annual tradition last year, a Med/Mal Mixer has been planned for November. Med/Mal is a traditional social event bringing together the future lawyers of St. Mary's with the future doctors of the UT Health Science Center. For more information contact Andrew Fields.



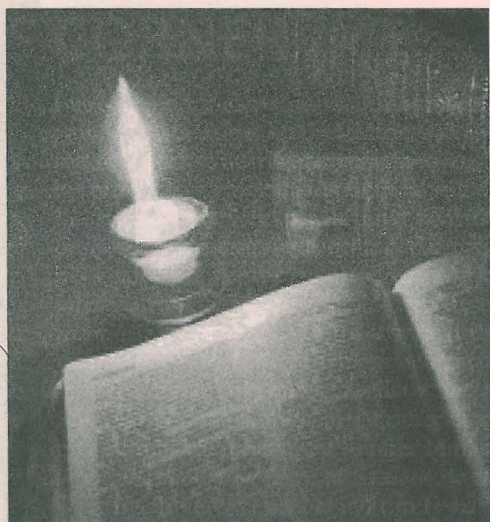
For more information about these and other events please read the Witan.

# Write for *The Legal Minute*

If you are interested in contributing please contact us at [thelegalminute@gmail.com](mailto:thelegalminute@gmail.com)







## SCHOLARSHIPS AND WRITING COMPETITIONS

These and additional scholarships are posted in the Witan. For a copy of detailed information regarding the below writing competitions and scholarships, please email Bebe Gonzales at [bgonzales@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bgonzales@stmarytx.edu).

- The National Law Review (NLR) is pleased to announce they are accepting submissions for the NLR 2010 Law Student Writing Competition. Deadline for a Labor & Employment Law topic is October 25, 2010. For information and submission guidelines, please visit <http://www.natlawreview.com/NLR-law-student-writing-competition>.

- LThe Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority law student at each of the ABA-accredited law schools in Texas. Applications are available at <http://www.tyla.org/index.cfm/resources/law-students/scholarships/>. Applications must be postmarked no later than October 15, 2010.

- Banner & Witcoff is proud to offer the Donald W. Banner Diversity Scholarship for law students. This scholarship is part of Banner & Witcoff's commitment to fostering the development of intellectual property lawyers from diverse backgrounds. Please visit [www.bannerwitcoff.com/diversity](http://www.bannerwitcoff.com/diversity) for details of this scholarship. Applications will be accepted through November 1, 2010.

- Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP is pleased to announce the 2010-2011 Diversity Scholars Awards of \$3,000 to one deserving second-year law student in each region. For more information and to download an application, please go online to <http://www.constangy.com/f-4.html>. Completed applications must be received by November 15, 2010.

- The Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni, Inc. (ASECA) is pleased to announce their 2010 Securities Law Writing Competition. First place prize is \$5,000, second place is \$3,000 and third place is \$2,000. The topic may be any subject in the field of securities law. For rules, please go to <http://www.secalumni.org/content.asp?contentid=4>. Deadline to apply is November 15, 2010.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Shelly Enyart

SBA President

Hello St. Mary's Law Students and Welcome to the very busy month of October! In an effort to help you manage all of the events during this month, please check out the Student Bar Association's Universal Calendar on our TWEN page. This calendar will keep you "in the loop" with important events going on at St. Mary's Law and the surrounding legal community.

And let's be honest, NOW is the time to take advantage of some great opportunities. It's difficult to avoid issues that recent law graduates face in searching for a job and to ignore the media's focus on our economy. But what can you do about it? It's simple: Reach out and ENGAGE yourself with your student organizations, professors, lawyers, and judges. It doesn't matter if you are starting your first semester or finishing your last semester; there are always opportunities to engage yourself with legal professionals.

And even if you absolutely don't have time, sign up to be a member of the ABA, State Bar of Texas, San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, and/or any type of legal organization that sends out reading materials and networking information. All of these memberships give student discount rates and provide a multitude of legal resources for law students.

Concerned about what is going on at St. Mary's Law? Let SBA hear your

voice at our Student Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, October 20 at 4:30p.m.—6:30p.m in LC 101. Please come voice your concerns, suggestions, and/or questions that you have about SBA or the law school. Many students are unaware and misinformed about what SBA does for the law school. However, this doesn't mean we can't do more or change these perceptions. We are determined to serve the students and to do what's best for our law school.

Continue working hard and if you ever have any questions, please feel free to stop by the SBA office at anytime. All of our Executive Board members have office hours and these hours are posted on the SBA office door.

Sincerely,  
Shelly Enyart



Please Recycle The Legal Minute.



P.S.

Students, please check your mailboxes for a sweet treat from the Student Bar Association! As an incentive to check your mail, we are randomly placing gift cards and goodies in your mailboxes in the Law Classroom building. Look this week to see if you have won!

## St. Mary's in Defense of Animals

By Melissa Lesniak

Contributing Writer

San Antonio – St. Mary's University School of Law has partnered with the Animal Legal Defense Fund to create a student chapter of the national non-profit group, whose mission is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. With the Animal Legal Defense Fund's support, students at the school's new chapter will join the ranks of hundreds of other student chapter members nationwide, taking on projects such as: advocating for the addition of animal law courses to curriculums; hosting speakers, debates, panels, and conferences; writing law review articles for journals dedicated to animal law; tabling on campus to raise awareness about animal issues; and volunteering to do legal research and writing for local law firms.

The first Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) chapter was established in 1992 at Lewis & Clark Law School; 15 years later, there are more than 150 chapters at law schools throughout the U.S.

and Canada, at top schools including Yale, Harvard, Stanford, NYU, and Northwestern. Students interested in joining St. Mary's University School of Law Student Animal Legal

Defect and advance the interests of animals, and to recognize that, despite animals' legal categorization as "property," there are special relationships between humans and animals

passes companion animals, wildlife, animals used in entertainment and animals raised for food and used in research. Animal law permeates and affects most traditional areas of the law – including tort, contract, criminal and constitutional law.

"SALDF chapters are an instrumental part of a growing national movement towards recognizing the important body of law known as animal law," explains Animal Legal Defense Fund Executive Director Stephen Wells. "An SALDF chapter can be a powerful forum on campus for education and scholarship aimed at understanding this area of law and the impact it has on animals. Most importantly, SALDF chapters are in a unique position to powerfully advocate for changing laws to better protect animals."

The Animal Legal Defense Fund was founded in 1979 with the unique mission of protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. For more information, please visit [www.aldf.org](http://www.aldf.org).



Source: stock.xchng

Defense Fund chapter should contact chapter president Melissa Lesniak at [mlesniak@mail.stmarytx.edu](mailto:mlesniak@mail.stmarytx.edu).

What is animal law?

More and more law students and attorneys are looking to use their degrees to pro-

that the law should account for.

Animal law is a combination of statutory and case law in which the nature – legal, social or biological – of nonhuman animals is an important factor. Animal law encom-



# THE LEGAL MINUTE



St. Mary's School of Law Student Newspaper

## Win Two San Antonio Spurs Tickets!

Best Article for the November Issue

Deadline: November 6, 2010

Submit to: [thelegalminute@gmail.com](mailto:thelegalminute@gmail.com)

Note: A one page condensed version of your writing requirement paper may be submitted



## The Legal Minute

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### Letters to the Editor

*The Legal Minute* welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail all submissions to [thelegalminute@gmail.com](mailto:thelegalminute@gmail.com)

## St. Mary's Flying Nun

**By Sister Grace Walle**  
*Campus Minister*



It was a bumpy ride. I clutched the sides of my seat, closed my eyes, took a deep breath and said a quick prayer. What had I gotten myself into? Why had I agreed to leave the peaceful, soaring mountains of my beloved Innsbruck to travel to the din and bustling of Beijing, China – a city of over 22 million people who speak a language I don't understand a word of?!? "Psst," I waved over the flight attendant, "Ummm, can you tell me is it always this bumpy and rough?" She tried to reassure me but in the end resorted to offering me something to calm my nerves. Fortunately, the plane soon evened out and we landed safely in Beijing.

Emerging from the confines of the cramped plane cabin into the world's largest airport terminal is an awe-inspiring sight. It has to be one of the biggest, most open, soaring spaces in a building. That is, till you look around and realize you are only one tiny ant, shoulder to shoulder with all the other tiny ants, being

jostled along through the customs queue. It's hard to imagine what it must have been like during the Olympics when people from remote countries all over the world walked these same corridors just as I am walking them now.

After surviving the customs queue and fighting my way through the crowds, another wave of panic hit me. What would I do if there wasn't someone there to meet me outside the airport? How would I communicate enough to find my way to the university where StMU students were taking classes? I didn't have any Chinese money! Did anyone here speak English? The doors to the receiving lobby swung open and I scanned the line of Chinese faces. Then my eyes landed on Kirsten Ruehman and Professor Robert Hu. What a welcome relief to see friendly faces! I was safe and everything was going to be fine.

July in Beijing is HOT and dry! So I was more than happy to settle into my nice, air-conditioned room for a nap before heading to dinner with the faculty and students. Professor Hu did a wonderful job of picking out some interesting new Chinese dishes, as well as some 'safe' standbys like Kung Pao Chicken. The students were all too happy to introduce me to Yanjing Beer and teach me to say ganbei which is the Chinese word for 'Bottoms Up.' Josh Sisam, a pilot, even allayed my flying fears some by explaining the aerodynamics of turbulence. I felt so welcomed by both faculty and students. Now if I could just get these chopsticks to work.

### Language Lessons

Wherever I travel, I try to learn a few polite words. My first Chinese word was nihao, which means 'hello.' One of the guards at our hotel took great delight in our daily exchanges of words for the English he was studying and the Chinese I was trying to learn. The word

for 'law,' as I learned from sitting in with the students in Professor Hu's Chinese Intellectual Property class, is falu. Also, I learned a lot from the students about the development of China's legal culture from their class with Professor Gary Liu. Fortunately, ordering dinner is a bit easier as most Chinese menus come with pictures. Unfortunately and despite the pictures, as even Professor Vincent Johnson who has traveled extensively in China can attest, there are still a few surprises when the food shows up the table. But always trying to be polite, you do your best and say xixie 'thank you.'



The Great Wall

No trip to China is complete without a trip to The Great Wall. Mythologized as being able to be seen from outer space, The Great Wall is actually a composition of smaller walls built by various dynasties to protect themselves from northern invaders. Earliest construction began during the Qin Dynasty (221 – 207 BC) and evidence of the wall now stretches from the east coast of China to the Gobi Desert some 31,000 miles away. What a daunting task to take on that construction project!

*Continued on Page 8*

## Red Mass

**By Amanda Schneider**  
*Contributing Writer*

People of all faiths are invited to participate in the 58th annual Red Mass, which will be Thursday, October 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Fernando Cathedral in downtown San Antonio. The Most Rev. Oscar Cantu, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio, will be the principal presider, and Chief Justice Catherine Stone, 4th Court of Appeals, will give reflections. Following Red Mass will be a reception at the Plaza Club, located inside the Frost Bank Building, 100 W. Houston Street. Red Mass is sponsored by St. Mary's University School of Law and San Antonio legal organizations, in conjunction with the Catholic Lawyers' Guild.

The custom of a special Mass for the Bench and Bar arose principally in England, France and Italy in the early 13th Century to mark the opening of the courts of law and to ask guidance on all the doctors of the law. It became known as the Red Mass from the color of the vestments of the priests and the robes of the judges and the red fire of the Holy Spirit. For the last 57 years, Red Mass in San Antonio has been sponsored by St. Mary's University School of Law in conjunction with San Antonio legal organizations and the Catholic Lawyers Guild. The judicial, legal, paralegal, law school, and legislative communities gather to offer prayer for strength and guidance on this noble profes-

sion.

The Supreme Court participates in this ancient tradition on the first Monday of October, and this is your chance to participate locally.

Red Mass is attended by all members of the legal community. Here are a few things that they enjoy about this event. Tonya Thompson, a paralegal that has participated in Red Mass for a number of years, said, "I love Red Mass and learn so much about the legal community as well as the Catholic traditions."

Victor Negron, recently appointed judge of the 438th Civil District Court had this to say about Red Mass: "Members of the legal community do not regularly gather as a group. While they see each other periodically in the courts and in other forums, the Red Mass is a special opportunity to unite as a profession, and to pray for the guidance



of the Holy Spirit, that we may each continue to carry out our vocations in a manner pleasing to Our Lord. It is a special time for us individually, as well, that our prayer may echo our patron,

St. Thomas More: "Give me the grace, good Lord, to set the world at naught; to set my mind fast upon Thee, and not to hang up on the blast of men's mouths. To be content to be solitary. Not to long for worldly company but utterly to cast off the world and rid my mind of the business thereof."

Chief Justice Catherine Stone of the 4th Court of Appeals "active in St Luke's parish and the civic and legal community in San Antonio Red Mass will share her reflections at the end of Red Mass. It is a tradition for a member of the legal community to comment on the meaning of Red Mass. Justice

Stone is married to Tom Stone and has three children. She believes her first calling is to her family and in regards to her work in the legal community she remarks, "We lawyers can be a voice to the voiceless and use our gifts and talents to do the right thing." Jeane Gonzales, a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law, had this to say about her experience with Red Mass: "This year will mark the 10th year I have attended Red Mass, my first was as a 1L at St. Mary's. As a student I was drawn to the tradition of Red Mass, the blessings that are bestowed on academia, and the camaraderie of the San Antonio community. As a legal professional I continue to participate in Red Mass because I believe it is another way I have been called to serve and continue my spiritual journey to Christ. I am always encouraging students and other legal professionals of all faiths to attend Red Mass, it is truly a celebration we should all experience."

At a recent planning lunch for Red Mass, 21 members of different legal organizations in San Antonio discussed what their calling is to participate in Red Mass. The overwhelming theme throughout all of the answers was a call to service, to be a voice for the voiceless, for those not able to defend themselves. Of all other professions, we [lawyers] are the most able to make a difference in our communities.



## Essence of Man

**Brandon Strey**  
Contributing Writer

Selfishness is a dirty word today, a word that stirs up the connotations of a Mr. Scrooge or someone in an ivory tower locked up all by their self. The mindset that we are encouraged to be today is not selfish, but selfless: to constantly be searching and working for the betterment of others and the betterment of "the public good". But the question needed to be asked is "By whose standard?" What standard has been set out to us to work for others with no regards for our own personal welfare? Whose standard says that you must give to others in order to find personal gain? This standard, this code of morality is a complete contradiction to human existence and the essence of the human spirit.

The human spirit is a selfish one. The word selfish, however, has been manipulated into meaning such a deplorable code that people have begun to forget what a genuinely selfish person encompasses. To be selfish is to have concern for one's self. If I am a truly selfish person I will work for my own goals values and desires in all that I do, but I will only take what I have earned and never take from another the unearned, which is not mine.

Bernie Madoff, the man who swindled people out of their money for his own profit, is one most people with the manipulated view of selfish would say that he is a supremely selfish man. Mr. Madoff took from others and made it his own while lying to every person along the way. His only interests were his own and he cared nothing for anyone else. He would be convicted by modern society as committing a crime of selfishness.

But Mr. Madoff is not the definition of selfishness in its true form. Selfishness calls for man to work towards his wants and desires by productive work of his own hands. Mr. Madoff did not work toward his goals and desires by productive work of his mind; his goals and desires required the work of others. This is not "selfishness" in its true form. This manipulation of a selfish individual is the doctrine of selflessness rearing its ugly deplorable head. In his work Mr. Madoff only cared about what others could give him, what others had to offer him, and what he could take from others. At no time were his thoughts ever "What can I earn for myself?"

Selflessness calls for one to be disinterested with personal interests. The virtue of selflessness requires forced sacrifice of your goals and desires for the goals and desires of all other men. The most akin society to this is any communist society of the last century. In its essence selflessness is the antithesis of American idealism. If I work in a field that I own for 6 months tending to a crop in which I put in the water (irrigation), fertilizer, protection of land, and then harvest my crop, is it right for another person to have dominion over my work? Obviously the answer is no, but a life of selflessness requires that another person lay claim to any productive work that another man creates. Mr. Madoff took from others with no justification, merely because he wanted to. At no time was his thought process ever akin to thinking what he could earn for himself. This mindset cannot be the view of selfishness as defined above because it does not at all factor into what Mr. Madoff was ever able to accomplish by his own actions. This is not congruous with the true definition of

selfishness.

The code of selfishness calls for the best within each of us. It requires that you attain your goals and desires only through productive work of your own efficacy. If one truly values serving the poor, that is not selfless. That is a selfish pursuit through their work with the poor, but it is not something that is required. It is a choice that one makes and acts accordingly with their ability. If one values education in youth, they work as a teacher or in the school system. That is not selfless, their ability to help students is something that they value and they act accordingly. If one values industry, he is not selfless. Their value is found from work of their own mind, work that calls for them to be compensated with greater or equal value in return for the product being traded with other men.

The idea of selfishness is the essence of the human existence. In America we endure "the pursuit of happiness", the pursuit of our values for our use. The purest phrase ever uttered by civilized society is the "pursuit of happiness" because it tells us we are to pursue that happiness with our own ability, it is not a given. In our lives we are in pursuit of many things. It could be a family, it could be comfort, or it could be peace of mind. But it is a pursuit whose values can only be ascribed by one person: the person in pursuit of those values and it is only the seeker who has the ability to attain them through productive work of his mind. This is "selfishness" in its purest and most real form; the pursuit of self-chosen values to be gained by one's motive power. The person who requires taking from others to attain their goals is a coward and cannot be called selfish.

Selfish pursuits are the essence of relationships. Friendships are chosen not because of collegial allegiances, political alignments, or by geographical location. They are chosen and maintained because one values the presence and companionship of another. Friendships created are maintained because one values the time spent with another. A romantic relationship is maintained because one values the mere existence of another as the affirmation of own personal code of morality. A selfless person cannot pursue a true relationship because any relationship they enter requires an automatic yield to the other person for any value; they have no choice because if they are selfless than they must give up their wants for the wants of others. A selfless person does not make choices because they want to make those choices; they make choices because they are required to by a disgusting code of ethics. Truly selfish individuals are the producer of their emotions. They choose relationships because they value them, a field of work because they value their efficacy, and a romantic relationship because of an affirmation of their own moral code in another.

Two mindsets, and two mindsets alone dominate the thinking of man today. One views humanity as decrepit and requires that each person yield to the next. The other views humanity as pure and understands that any dealings are done out of choice because they value them. Selfishness demands the best within each of us. Those who fear the power of true selfishness have bastardized its meaning. The essence of the human spirit is incapable of being submerged. The essence that requires humanity show its amazing ability to produce, create, and push forward through all adversaries.

## United We Speak

**By Jonathan Watkins**  
Contributing Writer

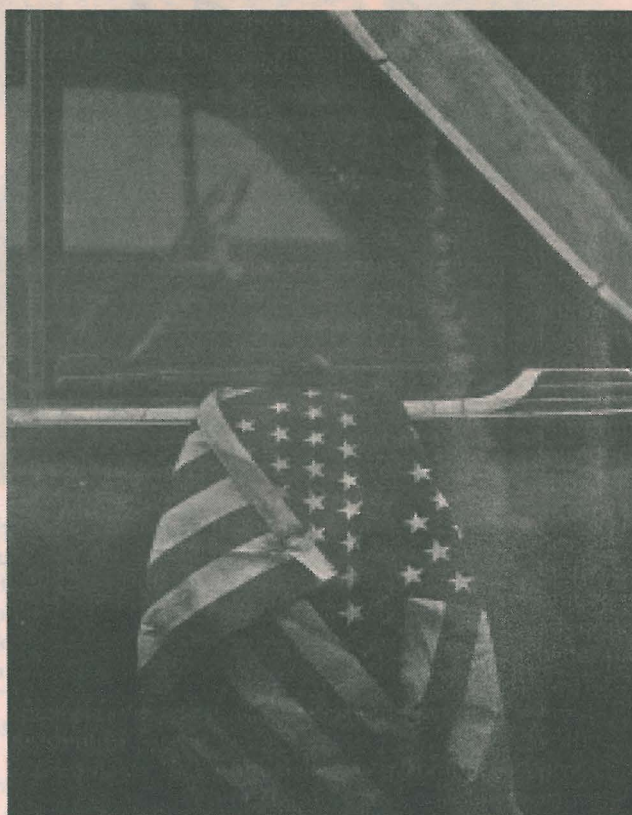
What is the first letter of the first word of this sentence? The question may appear silly, or rhetorical, but know that there are people among you who could not answer successfully.

Call it a cultural desire, or an American wish, but I postulate that every person in the U.S. should be able to speak English fluently. According to the data from the Central Intelligence Agency, English is the predominant language in the U.S. Furthermore, literacy rates in America are near 100%. Deductively, as a general rule, everybody should be able to speak, read and write in English.

What alerts me is a seemingly relentless problem—namely, through the discourse of foreign language—an inherent expectation that I will accommodate to the linguistic needs of one unfamiliar with English. There are many instances in which this has occurred, and despite their "everyday" manner, this must be addressed. For example, a waitress takes my order at a restaurant in Spanish, asks me about my day in Spanish, and says goodbye in Spanish. Is that de facto tolerable just because I live in San Antonio, Texas? Location aside, the principle is off. If you are here, and English was not your primary language, learning it may be a great idea.

Given that America was built up by immigration, it is reckless to be opposed to the presence of foreign speakers in the States. But I find it diligent to be opposed to a foreigner's apathy regarding learning English. I find no room for this form of ignorance. In a society where communication and expression are valued as fundamental rights it should clearly follow that picking up on a country's language is ideal, albeit only for visitation purposes.

Nestled in the depths of South Texas where immigration reform remains a very pertinent issue, I believe that literacy



Source: stock.xchng

requirements should be founded. The immigrants and resident aliens I have come to know are extremely hard-work-

ing... to a fault. Yet, the language barrier they come across surely prevents their own advancement in certain respects.

I address this issue not for their sake alone, but for the sake of our people. Not very long ago, America had something which is slowly disappearing. That something is called unity. Although today's America is a melting pot, there is still one unified national language, and it begins with an "E." I believe it to be fundamental and focal that everyone in the U.S. can clearly and unequivocally relate to one another, and it all starts with communication.

Language barriers can be minimized with federal and state-level administrative remedies, and more governmental fund allocation towards ESL programs, and literacy proficiency programs. I am not against the influx of varying cultures and languages. In a time when talk of government spending turns heads, and inflames spirits one can easily ignore the issue. Yet being united, and united with one language should be effected in the U.S. I strongly feel that in America, where we deal primarily in English, every person here should be able to understand.



**Please recycle The Legal Minute.**



# Concealed Guns on Campus Debate

**William Knight**  
Contributing Writer

There are those who believe that allowing concealed carry on campus is dangerous because having more guns surely means more crime. At first glance, this seems logical. However, it is easy to see why "gun free zones" are actually much more dangerous than areas where concealed carry holders can carry weapons.

In Texas, those twenty-one or older are issued a concealed handgun license upon request after passing an FBI background check, attending a 10 hour training course, and paying the appropriate fees. What I am arguing in favor of is allowing concealed handgun license (CHL) holders to be able to carry on campuses.

One of the main arguments presented against allowing concealed carry on campus is, "We don't want people to have guns on campus, period." Typically this argument comes from school officials who think having fewer guns would create a safer environment. Well, that sounds like a great idea, except for one problem, criminals do not follow the laws. That is why they are criminals. Gun laws that create "gun free zones" only prohibit law abiding citizens from carrying weapons because dangerous criminals could not care less about following the law.

It is important to understand that if a person wants to murder a group of students at their school they certainly do not need a concealed handgun license to do it and gun laws are not going to stop them. An unfortunate example of this is the Virginia Tech shooting everyone remembers so well. The gunman at Virginia Tech shot and killed thirty-two people. Did he have a concealed handgun license? No. Did the threat of thirty-two life imprisonment sentences or thirty-two death penalties prevent Cho from slaughtering thirty-two of his classmates? No. So how could a person think that a sign at the front door of the school prohibiting firearms on campus would prevent a shooting? The point is that signs cannot stop violent gun crime, armed citizens can. If just one armed student had been there that day at Virginia Tech maybe fewer people would have died. We will never know, but one thing is for certain, an armed student would have given those victims a fighting chance.

Another argument I have heard against allowing concealed carry holders to carry on campus is that there is no evidence that allowing CHL holders to carry at school (or generally) would prevent violent crimes. Let us say for the sake of argument that this is correct. I argue that if CHL holders would not stop a significant amount violent criminal acts in progress, they at least would not make schools more dangerous. To prove this point, there are currently 258,162 people in Texas who have active CHLs and the odds of them being involved in a crime are extremely low. 0.05 percent to be exact. Out of those 258,162 only 140 were

convicted of either a misdemeanor or a felony. This is about 1/7 the conviction rate of the general adult population (Lott, More Guns, Less Crime). Even if there is a study that shows CHL holders were in a position to stop violent gun crimes at schools and could not or would not, this study could not account for the violent crimes that never occurred just because of the mere threat that a student might be carrying. Finally, if CHL holders make no positive difference or no difference at all in preventing violent crimes then what is the problem with allowing those already licensed to carry at school?

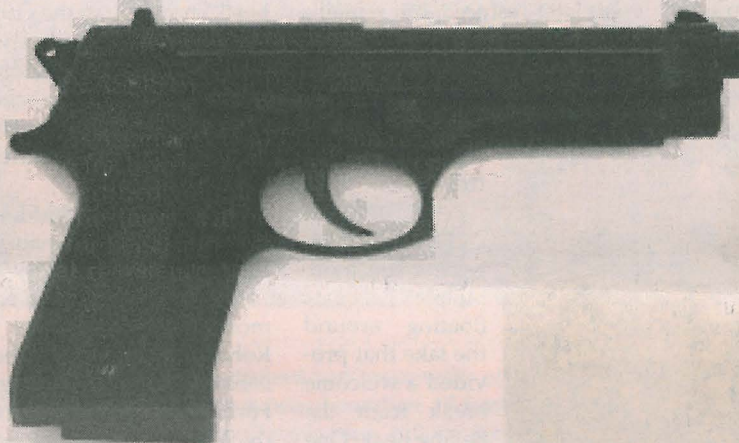
The fact is, concealed carry laws have helped to decrease crime rates in many jurisdictions and so I disagree with the assertion that CHL laws have not made an impact on crime generally. Basically the debate boils down to a simple question, if someone comes to class with a gun looking to kill you and your friends, would you rather have a Glock or an iPhone? You can use your iPhone to call the police, but even in a best case scenario like at the recent UT shooting where the police arrived quickly, they are minutes away. An impressive five minute response time by your campus police would still be ample time for an armed killer to ruin many lives.

Dr. John R. Lott, Jr. (Ph.D. in economics from UCLA) published a great book: More Guns, Less Crime. This book has all the relevant statistics regarding CHL laws and gun laws in general. One interesting statistic shows that the violent crime rate in Washington, D.C. fell after the Heller decision. Why? He argues, and I agree, that criminals are more fearful of committing crimes when it is likely that citizens are armed. Gun control activists [particularly the Brady campaign] prefer to place the blame of increasing gun violence on the guns themselves because it is more convenient than placing blame on the appropriate sources, the violent offenders themselves. Placing the blame on guns and not on criminals is illogical because guns kill people like pencils misspell words. The human user is to blame and not the firearm. The supposed "safety" purpose of gun-free zones produces an untenable argument that banning guns for all citizens will significantly reduce crime, ignoring the fact that law abiding citizens are generally not the criminal perpetrators. Creating gun free zones at schools leaves only criminals and law enforcement armed, rendering the law abiding students virtually defenseless.

**By Clare Pace**  
Contributing Writer

Tuesday left a chill in Texas as we were all Tuesday, September 28, left a chill in Texas as we were all faced with the horrible truth that gun violence can happen just about anywhere. These chilling events eerily coincided with a visitor to the campus, who had a scheduled speaker later that evening at the University of Texas, Mr. John Lott. Mr. Lott's theories on gun violence have garnished national attention as he proposes that stricter gun laws, including the well known "gun free zones" that exist on school campuses, do not promote safer environments.

Though Mr. Lott is referring to a general view of gun restriction and civilian safety, an issue that continues to capture the national media's attention is gun violence on school campuses. I have heard advocates of repealing gun restrictions



Source: stock.xchng

argue the rash of school shootings correlates to the fact that schools offer an "easy target" for those seeking to inflict maximum harm on multiple victims because guns are not allowed on school campuses. At first blush, this premise makes a lot of sense to people. Proponents of repeal or reform argue the premise that if the citizenry were armed, then they would be able to take down one of these shooters themselves.

To consider this premise, I decided to look at other instances of spree killings and shootings. The important thing we must remember is that there are statutorily three "Gun Free Zones" in Texas: hospitals, schools, and bars. So, I decided to look at shootings that occurred at any of these other three places. If the premise is to be followed, then shooters should also be targeting these areas because they also are gun free and offer an "easy target" for those seeking to inflict maximum harm; however, the evidence simply did not fit his argument. Out of the top 10 spree killings in the United States, 3 happened at schools. None occurred in hospitals or bars. Of the remaining seven, the citizenry struck none of the killers down; the shooters either killed themselves or were killed by police officers.

Therefore, outside of the Gun Free

Zones, where citizens with concealed handgun licenses are allowed to carry, an armed citizen did still not stop these gunmen. If we are to believe that abolishing Gun Free Zones would make our campuses safer, then why has this not made our lives outside of these zones safer?

Legislation is now being considered that would allow students with a CHL to carry into the classrooms. If we were to allow individuals to carry weapons everywhere on campus, this does not ensure that the students would either use these weapons or use them effectively, or that the students would even choose to carry their weapons on campus.

We allow individuals to apply for their concealed handgun licenses but many people choose not to or are unable to take advantage of this freedom. If individuals are choosing not to carry outside of the Gun Free Zones, then it fails to reason that allowing students to carry on campus would result in an armed society that could protect us from attacks. As the law stands today, students with a concealed handgun license can carry outside of the classrooms on campus yet many of them choose not to exercise this freedom.

The fact is that gunmen target what they know, the places that frustrate them, and the people that get in their way. Though on-campus shootings shock the conscience and frustrate the national identity, it is best to consider the logic and experience that we have around us to remember that we do have an armed law enforcement that have been able to effectively do their jobs and bring these individuals to swift justice.

Allowing for more freedoms to carry on school campuses, or abolishing the gun free zones entirely, does not equate to a safer environment. The argument simply cannot be supported. So, though my heart goes out to the Longhorns who were frightened for their lives that cold Tuesday morning, I have to remember that we have gun freedom and we have gun limits in our society; neither of which is going to stop an individual with an AK-47 and a score to settle.



Please Recycle The Legal Minute.



### Flying Nun, Continued from Page 5

And daunting task is just what I thought as I stood at the bottom of the steps to The Great Wall and looked around for a cable car to take us to the top. As Lane Greer put it, "Sister Grace looked a little discouraged by the number of steps to the top." Unfortunately, the cable car never materialized. So up I went, with a friendly Chinese man at my side.

The Great Wall was absolutely impressive and breathtaking. It was a misty day but the view was unbelievable, gorgeous green rolling hills and stunning trees all around. The Wall itself is a work of art, all these pieces intricately fitting together. We took numerous pictures, but like most things, I don't think the pictures do it justice. The Great Wall was definitely a highlight of this entire trip.

Well, what goes up, must come down. Fortunately for me, I got to go the "easy way" down. The Chinese man that walked up with me was kind enough to offer his hand to help me get down again. And one of our Chinese law students, LuLu, and her boyfriend took my other side and held the umbrella. While the students trekked further afield, I enjoyed a cold refreshment and some shopping at the bottom of the wall and waited on their return. The man who helped me turned out to be a local shopkeeper, so I had fun shopping at his stand in appreciation for all his help.

It turns out that the Chinese do recycle. Before getting on the bus, one man kept following me around. Leslie Lewis was kind enough to explain that they wanted my bottle back before I got on the bus. When interviewed about her trip to the wall with Sister Grace, Leslie indicated it was great fun, "How often do you get to tell a nun to chug beer?"

### Peking Opera

After the trip to The Great Wall and a two hour bus ride, we returned to the city to have dinner and watch Peking Opera still in our hiking clothes. (Note: Beijing and Peking are actually the same city. The difference is just in the way Westerners Romanized the name over time.) Peking Opera is difficult for even some Chinese to listen to and understand. However, the costumes are beautiful and the inclusion of some martial arts and acrobatic movements makes it truly a national treasure.

### Summer Palace

On our second day of touring, we went to the Summer Palace (pronounced Yee-her-yuan). Built on 4400 acres in the Haidian district of Beijing, the royal gardens were constructed by Emperor Qianlong in 1750.



Kunming Lake is situated in the center of the grounds. One of the most infamous attractions of the park is the Boat of Purity & Ease. A beautiful, but concrete and immobile, boat that is eternally anchored at the

edge of the lake. Empress Dowager Cixi (aka Power Mother), had the boat constructed as a lakeside dining room in 1888 with funds that were supposed to have been used to fund a new navy. Ironically, a decade later foreign troops, that may have been combated by the Chinese navy had it been funded, descended on the Summer Palace and burned it. It was later restored, but remains an example of why China's long history of foreign invasions has understandably given rise to distrust and skepticism of foreign governments attempting to control China.



Happily there were some more mobile boats floating around the lake that provided a welcome break from the Beijing heat. One type of boat was powered by a few people peddling and the other type is a grand dragon boat that sails blissfully across the lake powered by a motor. When given the opportunity by Prof Johnson which boat to choose, I told him, "that this 'Power Mother' did not peddle," and chose the dragon boat instead. We all had a good laugh about that.

### The Olympic Park

We left old traditional China and the Summer Palace that morning to time-warped into the futuristic Olympic Park of modern Beijing that afternoon. While it recalled for me the events of the Olympics, the grandeur of the Bird's Nest Opening, the fireworks pouring out and the eight gold medal swimming accomplishments of Michael Phelps in the Water Cube, Olympic Park is now largely abandoned.



### The Silk Market (or was that Lost in Translation?)

While the tour officially ended with the Olympic Park, our tour guide kindly offered to take some of us to the Silk Market, which she assured us wasn't that far away.

It seemed like three hours and a harrowing bus ride later, we arrived at the market shortly before it closed. If that "wasn't that far away" I shuddered to think what was. Fortunately, Heather Haywood, who evidently had already mastered Chinese subway school, was with me and helped guide me safely back to campus.

### Tiananmen Square & The Forbidden City

A few days later, LuLu, our vivacious Chinese law student, offered to take me and Robert Gunn to Tiananmen Square and The Forbidden City, as we had missed the earlier trip. As I walked across Tiananmen Square with Robert, LuLu, and her boyfriend, I vividly recalled the famous picture of a lone protester stopping the procession of four army tanks in Tiananmen Square. While best known for the 1989 pro-democracy movement that ended with the deaths of thousands of demonstrators, Tiananmen today is a much less somber sight. Now the place crawls with tourists posing for photo opportunities and children running around.

Visiting The Forbidden City immediately to the north of Tiananmen Square makes for a strange juxtaposition between imperial Chinese traditional architecture and the more modern concrete Communist style. Robert and I finished the trip through the cobbled courtyards and gabled roofs of The Forbidden City in record time. It was fun to think that this was where many of China's emperors lived, but I agreed with Robert who said he, "preferred the Summer Palace."

Peking Duck & Tea Ceremony One day Kirsten, who had been to China before, took Joseph Guajardo, Lane Greer, and I back to one of her favorite restaurants to have world-famous Peking duck. We were provided a Peking duck dinner with all the trimmings, which is nothing like turkey dinner with all the trimmings! I was surprised when the duck arrived all cut up, then dipped in hoison sauce, and rolled up with scallions in something similar to soft tortilla shells. After lunch we went to a Chinese teahouse where we were given a traditional Chinese tea service. It was very peaceful experience when compared to the rest of China.

### StMU Banquet

With all the new experiences, I couldn't wait to throw the students and faculty a little party as a way to get to know each other better and celebrate all these new friendships at Beihang University in China. Chang Huafeng (Nancy) and Cao Jian (Jefferson), two Chinese LLM graduates of StMU Law who now live in Beijing, were even able to

join us for a reunion. It was flattering to hear Andrew Fields say, "It is amazing how social and hospitable Sister Grace is. She remembered all the former China LLM students who had attended StMU in the past. It seemed like she just picked up where she left off with them, only on the other side of the world."

The dinner seemed to be a great success! All the students looked so nice and everyone was chatting so pleasantly. We had many good Chinese dishes and even some steak. I reminisced with Jefferson who stayed with Brother Cletus while he was in San

Antonio and set up a visit with Nancy at her office in the Ministry of Commerce the next day. Having graduated eight years ago from StMU's LLM program, Nancy made a generous donation to our Dean Cantu China Pioneer fund, established by the Ruehman family

with contributions from the fundraising efforts of the Asian Pacific Law Student Association (APALSA).

Overall, everyone had a good time. I could tell because Francis Nathan later told me, "Thank you Sister Grace! We had good food and meat, Meat, MEAT, once you came to see us! Professor Hu was just feeding us mushrooms and pickled veggies." Although I think this may have been an exaggeration.

### My Departure

I agree with Robert Gunn, "Attending the St. Mary's Institute on Chinese Law and Business in Beijing was one of the greatest adventures of my life." So I was sad to say zaijian or goodbye to all my new friends in Beijing. China turned out to be more fun than I could ever have imagined and was such a meaningful experience as I got to know students in

a unique and mystical country. I can't thank Dean Cantu enough for his support in sending me to Beijing to see his dream of a China program come true. Thank you to Professors Hu, Johnson and Liu for all their help in this new country. I would have loved to have spent more time with the StMU Law School family in China as they were preparing to visit Shanghai and the World Expo. But then again, I was looking forward to the Marianist retreat at Chaminade University in Hawaii. I just hope the plane ride isn't too bumpy.

-As told to Kirsten Ruehman by Sister Grace Walle

